

Minutes of the State Board of Health  
May 9, 2001

A meeting of the Washington State Board of Health (SBOH) was held at the Lincoln High School in Tacoma, Washington. The public meeting of the SBOH was called to order by Linda Lake, Chair, at 8:50 a.m. who addressed the attendees with the following statement:

“This is a public meeting of the SBOH held under provision of RCW 43.20. Notice of the meeting was provided in accordance with provisions of RCW 34.05, the Administrative Procedures Act. Those members having any conflict of interest on any item coming before the Board will report that conflict with respect to the particular subject under consideration. In case of challenge of any Board members by the public, the Board shall decide the status of the challenged members to participate before considering the substance of the matter.

Copies of all materials supplied to the Board for today’s meeting have been available since close of business last Friday from the Board’s Olympia office and on the Board’s Web site at [www.doh.wa.gov/sboh](http://www.doh.wa.gov/sboh). They are also available today, along with anything else we have received since, at the table in the back of the room. To conserve public funds, we have only made as many copies as we feel will be needed, so we may run out of some particularly popular items. If you do not find a document you need, please ask Desiree Robinson or another Board staff person for one.

Our meeting today is open to the public, so please feel free to listen in on informal discussions involving Board members or staff, including any that may occur during breaks or lunch.”

**The following Board members were present:**

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| Linda Lake, Chair                         | Charles R. Chu, DPM                           |
| The Honorable Neva J. Corkrum, Vice Chair | Ed Gray, MD                                   |
| Thomas H. Locke, MD, MPH                  | Joe Finkbonner, MHA                           |
| Vickie Ybarra, RN, MPH                    | Mary Selecky, Secretary, Department of Health |
| The Honorable Margaret Pageler, JD        |   |

**The following Board members or staff to the Board were absent:**

Melissa Burke-Cain, Assistant Attorney General, Agriculture and Health  
Carl S. Osaki, RS, MSPH

**State Board of Health Staff present:**

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| Don Sloma, Executive Director                  | Desiree Robinson, Executive Assistant       |
| Janice Englehart, Senior Health Policy Advisor | Doreen Garcia, Senior Health Policy Advisor |
| Craig McLaughlin, Senior Health Policy Manager | Ramona Nelson, Office Assistant Senior      |
| Donna Russell, Senior Health Policy Analyst    |   |

**Guests and Other Participants:**

Grant Hosford, Lincoln High School Principal  
Greg Vigdor, President of the Washington Health Foundation  
Aubrey Davis, CEO Emeritus and Founding Member, Group Health Cooperative  
Lyle Quasim, Chief of Staff, Pierce County Executive and Member, Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health  
Federico Cruz-Uribe, MD, MPH, Director of Health, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department  
Bill Moss, Tacoma City Council Member  
Tom Hilyard, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Social and Health Services  
Dr. Shirl Gilbert, President, Tacoma Urban League  
Students and Alumni of Lincoln High School  
Michael Smyser, Epidemiologist, Public Health Seattle-King County  
Steve Schain, Special Education Teacher, Lincoln High School  
Charles Weatherby, MD, physician and Lincoln High School graduate  
Ron Leighton, Board Member, Merle Palmer Minority Scholarship Foundation  
Tim Herron, Teacher, Lincoln High School  
John McLain, GEAR-UP Program Director, Higher Education Coordinating Board  
Minh-Triet Vo, GEAR-UP participant, Foss High School  
Thanh-Hang Nguyen, GEAR-UP participant, Foss High School

Jason Ramos, GEAR-UP alumni and first year pre-medicine student, University of Washington  
 Andrea Valdez, GEAR-UP alumni and first year nursing student, University of Washington  
 Patricia MacGowan, State Director, Washington MESA  
 Brenda Walker, Director, Tacoma Pierce-County MESA  
 Mary Williams, MESA teacher  
 MESA Students, Parents and Alumni  
 Teresa Stone, Supervisor, Health and Human Services Pathway, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
 Rhonda Coats, Director of Student Services, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges  
 Magda Costantino, Director, Evergreen Center for Educational Improvement  
 Bill Baker, University of Washington, Office of Minority Affairs  
 John B. Coombs, MD, University of Washington, School of Medicine  
 Charlie Garcia, Assistant Dean for Multicultural Affairs and Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, University of Washington School of Medicine  
 Myron Apilado, Minority Affairs Director, University of Washington

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- *Motion: To approve the May 9, 2001 agenda as submitted.*  
*Motion/Second: Pageler/Ybarra, the motion passed unanimously*

### **ADOPTION OF DECEMBER 6, 2000 MEETING MINUTES**

- *Motion: To approve the March 14, 2001 minutes as submitted.*  
*Dr. Locke corrected two points on the agenda related to the HIV rule revision.*  
*Motion/Second: Locke/Finkbonner, the motion passed unanimously.*

### **COST AND ACCESS TO HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES**

Greg Vigdor, President of the Washington Health Foundation, introduced Aubrey Davis, CEO Emeritus and Founding Member, Group Health Cooperative, who was the recipient of the Foundation's lifetime achievement award. Mr. Davis acknowledged the quality of technical aspects of the medical system, but pointed out that the quality of medical care is inadequate. He highlighted the problems with the current insurance system and spoke to the need to spread risk throughout the system so that it covers all, including those with serious illnesses.

Board Member Thomas H. Locke, MD, MPH, pointed out that significant effort on this issue is coming from communities in a decentralized way. Mr. Davis responded that these groups are part of a solution but suggested that we need to address this issue in government. First, he said there is a need to make a decision about whether or not to use an insurance system. If we choose this route, then we need to see reform within this system.

Board Member Ed Gray, MD asked how Mr. Davis might suggest taking the first step. Mr. Davis said the Governor could assemble a group of knowledgeable people and really challenge the insurance system. He stated that he is not opposed to revisiting the reform efforts of 1993.

Board Member Charles Chu, DPM pointed out that there are also many infrastructure problems that extend beyond the insurance industry, including the high cost of prescription drugs and an inadequate uniform coding system.

Board Member the Honorable Margaret Pageler, JD suggested that the Insurance Commissioner might be the locus for addressing these issues.

### **WELCOME**

The Board heard welcoming remarks from Grant Hosford, Lincoln High School Principle, Lyle Quasim, Chief of Staff, Pierce County Executive and Member, Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health, Federico Cruz-Uribe, MD, MPH, Director of Health, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Tom Hilyard, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Social and Health Services, and Dr. Shirl Gilbert, President, Tacoma Urban League. All applauded the Board for its work on minority workforce development and emphasized the need to provide access and opportunities to young people. Mr. Quasim emphasized the need for government to take responsibility for this issue.

### **PANEL OF STUDENTS OF COLOR PURSUING HEALTH CAREERS**

Board Member Joe Finkbonner, MHA provided an overview of the Subcommittee's work on Health Disparities. He introduced several students from Lincoln High School, who shared their stories of what has inspired their desire to pursue medical careers.

Eric Clara reported that he hopes to be a pediatrician. He commented that his science teacher at Lincoln High School inspired him to pursue a medical career. He credits his math teacher with encouraging him to get into Williams College. He added that his grandparents, with whom he lives, have helped him to believe that he could do anything even though he is legally blind.

Megan Saffold said that she loves children and would like to become an obstetrician. She also shared that when she was in the eighth grade, her mother died from cancer. She said that if her mother had received a blood test early on, the doctors might have been able to treat her. She said that teachers at Lincoln High School and special mentoring programs have helped to believe that she could pursue a medical career. She suggested that mentoring programs begin in elementary school.

Alecia George plans to pursue a career in dental hygiene. She commented that she has seen few African Americans in the dental field. She spoke about mentors and advisors who have supported her. She reported that career days at school have been helpful in expanding students' vision about career choices.

Brian Morris shared that his interest in medicine came after he demonstrated skill in the sciences. He pointed out that his success might in part be due to the fact that his parents have advanced degrees and that he has been encouraged by their example. He added that mentors have also encouraged him. He commented that the Merle Palmer Foundation has been especially helpful. He also noted that he is one of the only African Americans in many of his classes.

Christina Johnson shared her desire to become a pediatrician. She said that her godmother, who is in the health care field, has consistently provided encouragement to her in her efforts. She added that support by teachers and mentors have also been helpful to her.

### **OVERVIEW OF HEALTH DISPARITIES DATA ON DISPROPORTIONATE DISEASE BURDEN AND IMPROVED HEALTH OUTCOMES FROM A DIVERSE HEALTH-CARE WORKFORCE**

Margaret Pageler provided an overview of the Subcommittee's work on the health disparities data on disproportionate disease burden. She provided a PowerPoint presentation of this work. (Available on the Board's website or office.)

### **REVIEW OF FINDINGS, REPORT ON "RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION IN HEALTH CARE SETTINGS," PUBLIC HEALTH SEATTLE-KING COUNTY**

Michael Smyser, Epidemiologist, Public Health Seattle-King County, provided a summary of Public Health—Seattle & King County's work on discrimination in health care settings. His summary was provided on an overhead slide presentation. (Available at the Board's office)

Chair Lake asked if a study like this had been conducted anywhere else in Washington. Board Member and Secretary of Health Mary Selecky suggested that the Board follow up with the Public Health Improvement Project in Spokane.

### **OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS ABOUT HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PIPELINE, LIST OF PROGRAMS THAT SEEK TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES IN THE PIPELINE, AND GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS**

Board Member Vickie Ybarra, RN, MPH provided an overview of the Subcommittee's findings about the State's minority health workforce, the career pipelines for both Caucasian and minority populations, and opportunities to effect and improve the outcomes of the minority pipeline. (PowerPoint presentation available at the Board's website or office)

**PROGRAM PRESENTATION—LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL**

Steve Schain, Special Education Teacher from Lincoln High School, provided a description of the school's diverse ethnic student population. He stressed the importance of teachers and other adults forging real relationships with students that can be helpful. Relationships, time, and resources are essential to inspire students to follow a college path. His presentation was summarized in a handout. (Available at the Board's office)

Leroy Moore, a staff member and former student from Lincoln High School, described himself as a student who "got into trouble" when he was at Lincoln High School. He emphasized the need for strong family support, noting that his family only expected him to finish high school. He is currently a substance abuse counselor who works with families and realizes the value in supporting family systems as a necessary component in moving students on to college.

Charles Weatherby, MD, physician and Lincoln High School graduate, shared that he is an example of a black person who, as a student, succeeded in sports and academics and is now a doctor. He recounted the isolation he experienced as one of very few African American students in medical school. He described a culture of discrimination that is pervasive in our society. He accented the need to overcome these obstacles and do something about it.

Ron Leighton, a Board member of the Merle Palmer Minority Scholarship Foundation, described the Foundation's scholarship program and its attempt to support minority students in the community, including several students from Lincoln High School. The foundation's work includes both financial support and mentorship.

Tim Herron is an AP math teacher at Lincoln High School and college advisor working for the Neighborhood Learning Center Network at the school. He provided a handout describing this program. He emphasized that Network programs work on the principle that urban families need people, relationships, and neighbors who will support children in their journey through life.

**PROGRAM PRESENTATION—GEAR-UP**

John McLain, Associate Director of the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR-UP), Higher Education Coordinating Board, described the GEAR-UP program. He provided a handout summarizing his presentation. He introduced three students who are involved in the scholars program.

Jason Ramos is a GEAR-UP alumni and first year pre-medicine student, University of Washington. He is from Toppenish and described his family background. He explained that his parents were migrant workers and that they had little idea of what career opportunities were available to him. He said that the GEAR-UP program has helped to encourage him to go to college. It gave him both financial support and mentoring assistance. He is now involved with the University's program to assist people of color who want to be doctors.

Minh-Triet Vo, GEAR-UP participant, Foss High School, described his Vietnamese family background. He explained that his father is an acupuncturist. He hopes to go to medical school and one day, combine the philosophies of both Western and Eastern medicine. The GEAR-UP program has helped him to pursue this dream.

Thanh-Hang Nguyen, GEAR-UP participant, Foss High School, said that she is very grateful to the GEAR-UP program that will help her to pursue a college education. She explained that she is from a large family and her parents do not have the resources to assist her.

**PROGRAM PRESENTATION—MATHEMATICS, ENGINEERING, SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENT (MESA)**

Patricia MacGowan, State Director, Washington MESA program, provided an overview of the MESA program. She distributed a handout describing the program.

Mary Williams, a MESA teacher, spoke about information sessions she holds to help students learn more about college and get adequately prepared to go to college.

Brenda Walker, Director, Tacoma Pierce County MESA, and Thurston County MESA representative, described her work with MESA and distributed a hand out describing these efforts. She introduced Lisa Sheret, who in turn introduced a panel of students who have been involved in the MESA program.

Garner Brooks thanked MESA for the work they have done. He added that the MESA program has encouraged him to go to college.

Noble Riley expressed his gratitude for what MESA has done for him. He described a series of events that led him into this program. He has been inspired to work hard and plans to attend college.

Katara Jordan described that she has been involved with MESA for three years. She said that the MESA program has opened her eyes to so many opportunities that she otherwise would not have known existed. She hopes to become a neurosurgeon. She will be attending Columbia University in the fall.

Anthony Rose said that he had been involved with MESA since eighth grade. He added that programs like this are important to kids like him. He said that the MESA program helped tap into kids like him; they encouraged him and helped him along. He described several programs that he has been involved in and stressed the need to keep them going.

### **PROGRAM PRESENTATION—GATES FOUNDATION**

Gil Mendoza from the City of Tacoma's public schools grant management division described how the Gates Foundation's funding would impact Tacoma area high schools. He spoke to many of the changes that he hopes to see in transitioning several high schools into model schools.

### **OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED REPORT CARD**

Referring to page 47 in the Subcommittee's proposed final report, Ms. Ybarra described the Model Health-Care Workforce Diversity Report Card. Responding to a question from Ms. Selecky, Ms. Ybarra said that data collection efforts will have to come from a variety of sources, OSPI being one of them.

### **DISCUSSION OF EFFORTS TO INCREASE STUDENT OF COLOR PARTICIPATION AND SUCCESS IN K-12 AND HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS**

Bill Baker from the University of Washington's Office of Minority Affairs described the University's K-12 outreach program. He distributed a summary of his presentation.

Charlie Garcia, Assistant Dean for Multicultural Affairs and Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs at the University of Washington School of Medicine, described the Medical School's enrichment program's, including the U-DOC program, a six-week summer intensive enrichment program. He pointed out that in addition to workforce diversity efforts, he sees the need to ensure that current graduates are culturally competent. He pointed out several challenges including: minority faculty recruitment, financing medical education, and the need for tracking enrichment program participants.

John B. Coombs, MD from the University of Washington School of Medicine stated that the Board's recommendations are consistent with the University's vision, but added that there are a few inaccuracies. He suggested that the Board reject recommendation 4 that would create a graduate medical education (GME) incentive pool. He argued that redirecting these funds would undermine the University's ability to deliver "charity" care. He added that these funds are currently being used to deliver care to some of the more needy populations in Seattle. He stated that the university is accountable for these funds. He named several auditing and review bodies that monitor these expenditures.

Rhonda Coats, Director of Student Services, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, stated that the allied health programs are some of the least represented with people of color. She detailed some of the efforts that the Board has engaged in to recruit a more diverse student body in the allied health programs.

Teresa Stone, Supervisor, Health and Human Services Pathway from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, spoke to OSPI's efforts to support education pathways for all children. She provided a summary of her comments in writing.

Magda Costantino, Director, Evergreen Center for Educational Improvement, serves as the link between K-12 and higher education. She described the College Awareness Project and a proposal to the Fund for

the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education that focuses on grades 4-6. She provided a handout with a summary of her comments. She stressed the importance of intervening in elementary school, noting that many children by age 5 are coming to school with underdeveloped linguistic and cognitive skills. Often, these children are placed in special education rather than enrichment programs that would stimulate their thinking. She explained that grade four is a key point for intervention because the research shows that this is the point where children start dropping off and moving away from sciences or math because they think they are not able to excel in these areas.

## **PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON HEALTH DISPARITIES AND OTHER HEALTH ISSUES**

Del Parkinson stated that his mission is to prevent cancer. He described the hazards associated with exposure to petroleum based synthetic linear alkylbenzenesulfonic acid (DDBSA) laundry detergents. He provided a written summary of his presentation.

Onofre Contreras, Executive Director of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs introduced himself to the Board and expressed a willingness to work with the Board on health disparities issues. He commented on several points made during the day's presentations. He said that one of the links in the pipeline that is missing is the development and mentoring of administrators. He added that there is inadequate data available in the State to show drop out rates for Latinos. This data has not been collected since 1991. He suggested that as the State's population diversifies and these diverse populations gain more power in communities, there seems to be an effort to deliberately not collect data on ethnic minorities. He added that aggregating numbers often hides the unique features of particular ethnic minorities.

Board Executive Director Don Sloma presented responses received by the Board regarding the Proposed Final Report on Health Disparities. The University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies made several suggestions for technical changes in addition to other comments. The University of Washington School of Medicine gave a recap of their programs committed to diversity in the health care workforce and a descriptive summary of the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The Workforce Training and Education Coordination Board expressed support and an interest in participating on a future panel as outlined in Recommendation 6 of the Proposed Final Report.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

Joe Finkbonner presented a summary of recommendations as presented in the Board packets. Dr. Gray commented that he thinks that targeting the GME money to residents may come a bit late in the educational process to promote greater diversity since residency programs may only select from medical school graduates. Mr. Finkbonner clarified that they are trying to use GME as a tool to address workforce diversity. Dr. Gray added that he is sensitive to asking DSHS to take money from one program and direct it elsewhere because this could short the program from which money is moved. Linda Lake commented that she did not see the sub-committee's GME recommendation as a reallocation of funds; rather it is placing particular incentives on the existing GME program. Ms. Ybarra added that it would provide further incentive to diversify the pool of residents. Ms. Selecky commented that the spirit of the recommendation is to ask DSHS to consider this option. Chair Lake said that Tom Hilyard is very comfortable with this recommendation and acknowledged that this is a reasonable way for DSHS to begin evaluating its GME program.

Dr. Gray suggested that the Board might be leaving something out. He said that the climate for doctors in Washington is so uncomfortable that many physicians are moving out of State. Ms. Ybarra asked if he was suggesting a new recommendation. Dr. Gray responded that he would leave that to the subcommittee's judgment.

- ***Motion: To approve Subcommittee's recommendations as submitted.***  
***Motion/Second: Finkbonner, the motion passed unanimously.***

Dr. Gray opened a discussion to follow up on Aubrey Davis' comments. Ms. Pageler reiterated her interest in hearing perspectives from the Insurance Commissioner's Office. She said that if, as Mr. Davis suggests, the insurance industry is to be asked to expand access to health care in this State, the Board needs to engage the Commissioner on this. Dr. Locke added that it is imperative for some government body to force the insurance industry to make serious changes. He said that the Insurance Commissioner would need some kind of authority to act (i.e., legislative mandates). Ms. Selecky pointed out that few of the Board members are well versed on what the authority of the insurance commissioner is and suggested that the Board invite Mike Kreidler to have a study session with him and others. Ms. Pageler compared Washington's medical crisis to the deregulation of energy in California. This crisis, she stated,

has resulted in out-of-control pricing and shortages. Dr. Locke suggested that the Board has made some progress on thinking about access to medical care with its Critical Health Services project. He would like to see the Board link these medical financing needs to its work on access. He added that prioritizing essential services is a necessary step in the face of explosive technology growth.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATE**

Mary Selecky reported that the legislature has not decided on a State budget yet. She added that her Department has been working on water system assessments and believes drought conditions will present ongoing challenges for DOH throughout the summer. She reported that DOH has signed off on a reclamation agreement to bring clean fill, along with other filling materials into the DAWN mine in eastern Washington. Secretary Selecky also reported on weekend activities related to a teenage smoking cessation program that will be broadcast on the Web for further education.

#### **UPDATE ON RESEARCH EFFORTS TO SUPPORT PRIORITY SETTING FOR 2001-03**

Craig McLaughlin, Board staff member, gave an update to the Board on the staff's work related to priority setting. The Board has completed approximately half of the 70 interviews that will be conducted for this purpose. He hopes to present this work to the Board at its next meeting.

#### **SBOH STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER BOARD BUSINESS**

Don Sloma asked for a sense from Secretary Selecky and the Board as to their interest in a formal Board nomination process to suggest an annual recipient for the Warren Featherstone Reid Award. The Award is given by the Governor, upon recommendation of the Secretary of Health to a person or facility exhibiting exemplary efforts toward improving the quality of health care. Under the law, the Secretary of Health may appoint an advisory panel to help suggest a nominee, but the Secretary has relied upon the Board for this function. Secretary Selecky reported that this year, upon suggestion of the Board's Chair and Executive Director, she suggested that the Governor honor Sue Crystal, Administrator of the state Health Care Authority with the award. The Governor did. Secretary Selecky indicated an interest in seeing the Board formalize this advisory process. The Chair directed staff to present a plan for this.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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Linda Lake, Chair